



The Weekly Wrap Up

March 17, 2006

From Viola Miller, Tennessee's Commissioner for
The Department of Children's Services

Psychiatric help:

5 minutes

The doctor is in!



Q and A with

Dear Dr. Gatlin:

I received an e-mail from someone at Central Intake telling me that one of the children on my case load had been admitted to the psychiatric hospital on Sunday afternoon. I got the email when I came to work on Monday. How did central intake know? What am I supposed to do. The child is in the hospital, and as far as I know, I don't have to do anything special.

Maxine

Dear Maxine:

The goal of the psychiatric hospitalization is stabilization. With stabilization the child may quickly return home or to a less restrictive less invasive treatment setting. In the past, hospitals have communicated that there is a lack of care coordination for children in DCS custody because hospitals sometimes did not know whom to contact at DCS regarding children in their care.

Psychiatric hospitals have been provided with the toll-free number for the Ombudsman's office for day hours, and the toll free number for Central Intake for night and weekend hours, so they can notify DCS when a child is admitted. This way, **DCS can communicate internally and work as a team** to make sure that the child receives the services they need to stabilize and get back to their foster home or residential placement.

The Health Unit and Child placement/Resource unit are also contacted by central intake when a psychiatric hospital calls about an admission. The **Health Unit nurse** will coordinate consent for medications, and the **Health Unit psychologist** will coordinate with the hospital on treatment and discharge planning. The **case manager** should make sure that the following things are being

taken care of while the child is in the hospital, whether that is coordinating with other team members at DCS, the contract agency if the child is in a residential placement, or working with the foster family.

- **Coordinate child's visitation.**
 - contact parent/guardian, resource parent, or residential placement to inform of hospitalization and encourage and coordinate visitation needs.
 - Who is visiting child?
 - **Identify any clothing/ hygiene needs of child with hospital staff**
 - Make appropriate arrangements.
- **Provide pertinent records to Hospital**, including social history and medical information (such as last EPSDT, permanency plan and current PCP)
- **Request Treatment and Discharge information from hospital**
- **Notify current placement of child's anticipated discharge date and treatment needs (Notify psychologist and resource/child placement regarding disruption issues if applicable)**

By working together, we can help a child get stabilized and return to day-to-day life.



Have you submitted names of eligible 2005-2006 graduates for the Celebration of Excellence Banquet? Please provide the information to the Independent Living Program by March 31.

TRUCKLOAD OF GIFTS CREATES A PLATE FULL OF THANKS

Greene County staff appreciative of Christmas effort



On March 15, the Greene County Department of Children's Services had a Thank-You Luncheon and plaques were given in appreciation for Christmas gifts provided for approximately 200 Greene County foster children.

This was the sixth year the children have received gifts from local businesses/agencies. Thanks to employees of Greene Valley, Wal-Mart Supercenter, Roderfer Moss, Wal-Mart Transportation, John Deere Power Products, and Cumberland Presbyterian Church for providing Christmas for these children. Greene County Skills and Landair Transport assisted in delivering gifts to the DCS office.

You wouldn't believe the eyes of the staff when they saw a semi trailer pull in the back parking lot that was full of Christmas gifts for the children. We about ran out of room to put all of the gifts, until the case managers could deliver them to the children.

Food for the luncheon was donated by Fatz Cafe, Applebee's, Pizza Inn, McDonald's, Lenny's, Subway, Ingles, Food Lion, Food City, Peggy Ann Bakery, and the Pepsi Bottling Company. It was amazing to see how many local businesses wanted to help participate in this luncheon.

And none of this would have been possible without the wonderful coordination from Bernadine Blake our case assistant and Lisa Vanover, our administrative assistant. Thanks Ladies.

Carolyn S. Taylor